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WASHINGTON LETTER February 1986

STRICTLY PERSONAL: EXCERPTS FROM MY DIARY

January 20 -- Top official who recently left CIA told me morale is low among spooks. Divorce rate, he said, is over 70 percent. Wives get suspicious of husbands who disappear at odd hours on CIA assignments and are ordered not to confide in anyone. Result is that families break up and alcoholism is high. Complained about CIA Director Bill Casey who, source said, promotes his subordinates by whim rather than merit.